

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 12-13 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 14-15 and 17-18 are canceled and claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12-13 and 16 are amended.

The Office Action indicates that the declaration does not include a priority number. A new Declaration containing the priority information is being prepared and will be filed in due course.

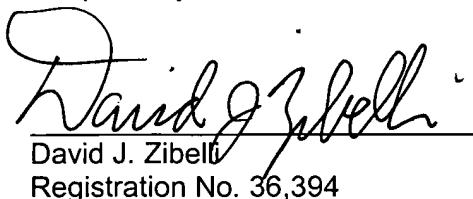
The Office Action indicates that claims 6-9 and 16 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claims 5 and 6 have been incorporated into claim 1. Furthermore, independent claim 10 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 6. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 10, and all claims dependent therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 10-15, and 17-18 under 35 USC 103 over Sawa (USP 6,024,671). It is submitted that this rejection is moot in view of the new features recited in claims 1 and 10, and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are requested.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Zibelli
Registration No. 36,394

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KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Tel: (202) 220-4200
Fax: (202) 220-4201